



# UUFNB SUNDAY DIGEST

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay  
PO Box 4051, Napa, CA 94558 (707) 226-9220 [www.uunorthbay.org](http://www.uunorthbay.org)  
Services held at 1515 Pueblo Ave, at the Boys & Girls Club of Napa  
10 am July and August

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday September 14, 11 am

"Weaving the Web" with Rev. Bonnie Dlott and Worship Associate Vicki Wolf. Our seventh principle tells us that we are each a part of the interdependent web of being. What does that mean to us as a small liberal congregation within a consumer-oriented corporate culture? Some believe that small congregations are uniquely qualified to model transformation, as their members strike a balance between caring for each other and working toward social change. Can we do it? Yes we can.

### Sunday September 21, 11 am

"Refusing the God Ticket" with Rev. David Sammons and Worship Associate Matt Metzler. Lots of people seem to believe that suffering is the result of doing something wrong - or getting on the wrong side of God or the Universe or some outside force. Buddhist say suffering just is. So, who is right and how do we deal with the painful side of life?

After over forty years in the parish ministry, Rev. Dr. Dave Sammons accepted a position as Visiting Professor of UU Heritage and Ministry at Starr King, where he also served as Acting President during the sabbatical of Rebecca Parker. Dave has served in many denominational and community roles and is currently on the UUA's Committee on Socially Responsible Investing.

### Sunday September 28, 11 am

"The Meaning of Membership" with Rev. Bonnie Dlott and Worship Associate Lenore Hirsch. Why do people join religious communities? Does Unitarian Universalism have a "theology of membership"? What is it that congregations owe their membership, and what do members owe to their congregation? Join us today for an exploration of what classical theologians would call our *ecclesiology*.

## September 7, 2008

Dear Members and Friends of UUFNB,

It's the beginning of a new church year, and lots of new things are happening. Our Carbon Rings and our new Religious Education Program will kick off this month. On October 12 we will celebrate our 25th anniversary along with my installation (see page 4 for more information about the installation). On November 9 we will join with the other UU churches in the North Bay for an old-fashioned UU revival! I'm looking forward to an exciting year with you.

You can help me this year with some input about two things; first, I'm always looking for charities to send our "Share the Plate" donations to. Drop me a line if you have a favorite local charity. Also, I'll like to know what sermon topics interest you, or people that you'd like to hear as guest speakers.

If you need to remind folks about a Fellowship-wide event or program before then, please get in touch with Vicki Wolf, our Worship Associate, before Sunday and she will make your announcement or call on you to make it. If you would like an e-mail copy of a sermon I have given at UUFNB, send me a note. If you wish to have items included in the Sunday Digest for September 14, please submit them to me by noon on Friday, September 12!

*The Rev. Bonnie Dlott*  
[minister.uufnb@mac.com](mailto:minister.uufnb@mac.com)  
or (925) 256-4334

# UUFNB Calendar



Monday September 8, 8 p.m.

**Monday Night Meditation**

Susan Levine's home, 2341 Joanne Circle, 226-3975

Wednesday, September 10, 7:15 p.m.

**Choir Rehearsal Cancelled this week**

Kate MacPherson's, 1135 Olive Hill Lane in Napa. 255-5687

Wednesday, September 10, 7-9 p.m.

**Sonoma Chalice Circle**

The Red Grape, Sonoma, Call Mary Ellen Morgan at 294-2759

Sunday, September 14, 12:45

**Fellowship Lunch**

Buckhorn Grill, Napa Town Center, Rev. Bonnie Dlott, (925) 256-4334

Monday September 15, 4:30 p.m.

**Committee on Ministry Meeting**

For more information call Rev. Bonnie Dlott at (925) 256-4334.

Monday September 15, 8 p.m.

**Monday Night Meditation**

Susan Levine's home, 2341 Joanne Circle, 226-3975

Tuesday, September 16, 7-9 p.m.

**Carquinez Cluster:** Bring your favorite Poetry.

1416 Tamara Ct. in Benecia. For more info call Tom or Darlene at 707-745-5290.

Sunday, September 21, 2-4:30

**Popcorn Theology** (youth group)

657 Montecito, call Mary Ellen Morgan at 294-2759.

Wednesday, September 24, 7-9 p.m.

**St. Helena Chalice Circle**

Mary Ellen Morgan, 294-2759

To view the UUFNB Calendar, go to <http://www.huntcal.com/cgi/calview.cgi/uufnb/UUFNB>

# UUFNB Announcements

**Adult Programs: Sunday Mornings 9:40 to 10:45 a.m. Boys and Girls Club, 1515 Pueblo**

- **September 14 - "Talks on the Bible"** with Jim Craig will resume this year on the second Sunday of each month, beginning on September 14 at 9:45 a.m. This first session will review briefly the first few books of the Bible and go on to discuss the political problems faced by the ancient Israelites, culminating in their decision to have a king.
- **September 21 - "Whole Lot'a Shakin'"** This is the debut of a new music program led by William Somerville. Come prepared to sing, rattle, drum, click, clack, and make all kinds of beautiful noise together! William will lead singing: camp songs, church songs, rounds and rock and roll. The emphasis will be on fun and songs with easy to teach parts and rhythms so we can play different rhythms together in an orchestrated manner. All ages and all levels of experience welcome.

## PLANT EXCHANGE

Soon it will be time to divide those bulbs, thin out crowded flower bed, and pull up that plant that needs shade when all you have is sun! I propose a plant exchange after church on 10/19. So start saving milk and yogurt containers, cans and whatever else will work to put your "discards" in and get ready to add some new life to your garden on October 19! Anyone need a bazillion calla lilies?!



Paula Eisenbarth, our Church Musician, would like to hear from any of you who play instruments and might be interested in performing (solo, accompanied, or with a group) on occasion for worship service. Also, to contact Paula with any suggestions of musicians outside of our Fellowship who might be available as well. Paula can be reached at

[paulaeisenbarth@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaeisenbarth@yahoo.com)



## What's Happening on October 12?

### Frequently Asked Questions about Installations

**What is an Installation?** Three elements mark formal preparation for and entrance into the Unitarian Universalist ministry; academic training, provided by a theological school, certification by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and “a call” to a ministry. Calling a minister is solely an act of a congregation in our tradition, and is done by way of a congregational vote. The Installation Service is the recognition that a minister is settled in a particular congregation. Like a wedding, it is a public declaration of the covenant made between a minister and a congregation. We "called" Rev. Bonnie with a congregational vote in June of 2007.

**Who will Attend the Installation?** The entire congregation is encouraged to attend the service, as they will be asked to participate in the “Act of Installation” during the service. Others receiving invitations will be each UU minister in the district, local clergy, the UUA district staff and board members, and the family and friends of the minister. Local dignitaries are invited as well as a formality. Having the wider community of clergy attend the event highlights the connection of the church and minister to wider affiliations, and is symbolic of their support.

**What will the Installation be like?** At the beginning of the service, our chalice will be lit. Then we will sing a processional hymn, and the ministers will come in and sit in front. Greetings will be given from the UU Minister's Association, from local Napa Clergy, and from the District Executive. In honor of our 25th anniversary, greetings from past ministers will be read. Our choir will perform, along with some other musicians. Barbara Hamilton-Holway, Co-minister of the Berkeley UU Church, will deliver a short sermon. The congregation will rise and participate in the “Act of Installation” along with Rev. Bonnie and Iris Barrie, our current Board President. After a prayer, the ministers will recess to another hymn, and Rev. Bonnie will do a benediction. Then we will have a wonderful reception to celebrate.

**Who pays for the Installation?** Congregations traditionally cover the costs of the Installation. A congregation that has had installations before usually anticipate the cost and include it in the annual budget; however, because we had other funding priorities this year, the Installation Committee chose to do private fundraising within the congregation. Because of your generosity, we are well on our way to raising the needed funds.

**Why all the fuss?** Although it looks like you did formally call and install a minister in the early 90's, that ministry was short-lived, and the installation took place in conjunction with the San Francisco UU church in San Francisco. That means this is YOUR first Installation Service, as well as Rev. Bonnie's first. It's worth celebrating!

**When and Where is the Installation?** We will be printing an invitation in the Sunday Digest very soon, with all the details. It will be held on Sunday, October 12, at 4 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1455 Elm Street. You will be asked to RSVP to Tom Wilson so that we can plan for the food.

**Who is planning this event?** Many, many thanks to the hard working Installation Task Force; Gayle Keane, Lenore Hirsch, & Tom Wilson, with support from Bob Jones. Hope to see you there!

## REFlections

Are you ready? We are about to start seeing new children and families at our Fellowship on Sunday mornings and I want all of us to be prepared! Your Religious Education Council and your DRE are ready! We have a whole curriculum prepared for these children, your children and we are eager to start!

Children who are aged four and five (and six year olds who aren't ready for science curriculum), will be introduced to "The Wonderful Welcome". This curriculum engages and challenges leaders and children alike to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even non-human entities, such as our animal friends and nature itself.

Older children (six through twelve) will be immersed in their study of the interdependent web of life. Here is our schedule for the first three months:

<b>September 14</b>	<b>Life Cycle of a Pumpkin</b>	<b>Michelle Risso</b>
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Animal Hands</b>	<b>Judith Lerner</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>Fun with Fingerprints</b>	<b>Lee Dalbey</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>More Than Meets the Eye</b>	<b>Burt Dekker</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Downtown Rock Field Trip</b>	<b>Michelle Risso</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Frogs!</b>	<b>Stephanie Partida</b>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Life among the Oaks</b>	<b>Steve Kanakis</b>
<b>November 16</b>	<b>To Be Announced</b>	
<b>November 30</b>	<b>Teeth and Evolution</b>	<b>Dr. Victoria Day</b>

Parents have been very enthusiastic about these classes, so we should be seeing some new faces on Sunday mornings.

How can you be involved? We always have need of adults who would volunteer to help in the classroom. And just think, you don't have to prepare a lesson, just be a willing pair of hands for children who may need a little help with a class project. And we will need extra guides on our field trips scheduled for October 12, November 2 and possibly November 16. Please let me know if you can schedule a Sunday with our youngest UU's.

We will also need, from time to time, help with infants and toddlers who don't want to stay with Mom or Dad in the service.

There are so many ways you can make a difference and be a wonderful presence in the lives of our children.

So, are you ready?

In faith, *Mary Ellen Morgan*

### *Share the Plate!*

This month, ten percent of our non-pledge plate collection will go to Napa Humane, whose mission is to promote the welfare of companion animals through protection, advocacy, education, and example. Please be as generous as you can!



## Board Buzz . . .

Your Board had a productive retreat last Saturday and, dare I say, a good time defining our goals and strategizing how to accomplish them this year. In addition we developed this year's calendar of Fellowship events; what a busy congregation we are!! It was also a pleasure sharing lunch with those of you who joined us after the meeting.

A few highlights of the retreat:

1. We applauded the efforts of previous Boards and volunteers who made it possible for UUFNB to have already exceed the goals of our 2006-11 Long Range Plan
2. To improve communication between the Board and the congregation we will provide a link on our website for board minutes; have "Conversation with the Board" after service in January and next September to provide a forum for questions and concerns; and start our budgeting process earlier, providing more opportunities for conversation about it with the congregation.
3. We began the process of setting up a task force to develop criteria for evaluating our RE program next January
4. We addressed ways to improve leadership development and succession of Board officers and committee chairs

So you can see we accomplished quite a bit in our 3 hours. The year is off to a great start!

Iris B.

Iris Barrie received a note recently from Kris Goodrich, a doctoral candidate in Counseling and Human Services at Syracuse University, who is currently engaged in dissertation research exploring the experiences of heterosexual parents with lesbian, gay or bisexual-identified children. Kris is hoping for a large number of responses from persons with different types of experiences. If you think you might be interested in participating in this study, please contact Iris Barrie for more information at 265-6926.

# Minister's Message

## “How do I become a member of UUFNB?”

This is a question I love to hear, and it has a short answer and a long answer. The short answer is that to become a member, you need to sign our Membership Book. But we'd rather you not sign until you've heard the long answer.

When you express to me or to someone on our membership committee that you feel ready to join the Fellowship, I like to pay you a visit. During my visit I try to get to know you a little better, and find out if you have any questions about Unitarian Universalism and/or UUFNB. I let you know that you CAN sign the book right away, but that we prefer to have prospective members take some time to get to know us well.

After my visit, the Membership Committee will assign you a mentor. The mentor provides companionship and support as you begin integrating into the Fellowship. The first time you meet with your mentor he or she will give you a “New Member Packet” which contains lots of information about the Fellowship. Your mentor will review the information, answer any questions that might come up, and discuss possible opportunities for deeper involvement.

The final step is to participate in an Ingathering, which is a simple ritual that is incorporated into the rest of the order of service on a given Sunday. To prepare for the Ingathering, you would submit a short biography to your mentor. This may be autobiographical, including life events and/or information about your spiritual journey. Most new members choose to write this themselves, but another option is for your mentor to interview you and write the biography for you. The night before the Ingathering you will be invited to a dinner for all new members and their mentors, hosted by the Membership Committee. I usually attend these dinners, along with our Board President.

The next morning at the Ingathering, each new member is introduced by their mentor, who reads their biography. The membership book is signed at that time, and we pledge to each other our mutual support.

And what do we expect of you once you have joined? We sincerely hope our members will commit to participating in UUFNB events at a level that feels comfortable. Regular attendance at services is encouraged. Adult classes and programs can deepen a member's spiritual life. There are many opportunities for learning new skills and for using existing skills at UUFNB, and many ways to get involved as a volunteer. In addition, we hope that all members will want to be involved at some level in our governance and decision making process.

Our Fellowship is entirely self-funded, and so we also ask that members make a contribution of record each year. When you join you will be asked to send our treasurer a confidential note about this. Subsequently, each Spring during our Canvass Drive you will be asked to estimate how much you will be able to give the next year, so the Board can propose a budget. The amount can be reduced at any time should you incur financial hardship, simply by speaking to the treasurer or me.

Our dates for this year's Ingatherings are October 5 and April 26. It's not too late to participate in the October Ingathering! If you are interested please contact me or our Membership Committee Chair, Barbara Kummer at 226-1191. Many thanks to Barbara for her hard work, and to the other members of our Membership Committee; Gerane Park, Barbra McCandless, Guy & Connie Kay, Margaret Kelso, Bob Lux, & Meredith Harris.

## Community Bulletin Board and Area Events

Disclaimer: The announcements in this section are not UUFNB endorsed or sponsored.

THE NAPA INTERFAITH COUNCIL PRESENTS

### THE SACRED WATERS OF THE NAPA VALLEY

Tuesday, October 7, 6-8 p.m.  
Napa Public Library, downtown Napa

Religious traditions revere water. Initiations, rites of passage, and healings use water as a symbol of death and rebirth. Water is also a symbol of grace, and spirit. Coins and other objects are often thrown into water for wishes and luck.

This evening salon will be a discussion of the sacredness and purity of our local waters. We will discuss sources of our water, what water does for our environment, the energy and potential of water and current pollution and sources of our local water's destruction. We will open the discussion to members of the audience as we open our hearts and minds to the potential of restoring our local waters for life sustenance.

#### Facilitators

Gary Vann is the author of "To Take The Waters," a local guidebook to mineral, hot and healing springs throughout Napa, Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Alan David, Professional Dowser, will speak on the energy and transformational properties of water and what makes it sacred.

Chris Malan is a Water activist and the Executive Director of the Institute for Conservation Advocacy, Research and Education, with a focus on the health of the Napa River and its tributaries. She advocates for all watershed stakeholders to join in the protection of our water resources which mean every person living in our county must stop polluting the river and taking water where little is left to take. In most areas of the county streams are drying, aquifers are in depletion and wetlands are vanishing.

All attendees are asked to bring water from a local waterway for blessing. The waters will be combined, blessed and redistributed so that it can be returned to the source from which you brought it.

#### Jeremy Taylor is Coming Back to Napa!

Friday, Sept. 19 from 7-9 (Introductory session)  
Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Father Edwards Center at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville Lunch will be provided.**

**The cost of this event is \$100 for both days, and lunch. Please bring one dream to work on at the workshop.**

**Please RSVP to Yvonne at: 707-226-7127, or email back. Send check to:  
Yvonne Baginski, P.O. Box 6863, Napa, CA 94558**